

Study for the Month of February 2016
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The ‘Man of Sin’ of Bible Prophecy and his activities and career - Part X

“500 Years After Reformation, Pope Knocks on Lutherans’ Door”

By Angus Mackinnon, AFP 1/25/2016 <http://news.yahoo.com/pope--francis-visit-sweden-october-mark-reformation-anniversary-1138511358.html>

“Why is the Pope Celebrating the Protestant Reformation?”

By Lucy Schouten, Christian Science Monitor Tue. Jan. 26, 2016. Yahoo.news 1/28/2016
<https://yahoo.com/news/why-pope--celebrating-protestant-refromation-213035603.html>

We have for the first time a dual title for our monthly study, both direct quotes from official news sources. Why so? Because they not only deal with the same news topic as reported by two separate top-tier news organizations, reflecting each one’s disciplined yet nuanced take of this important developments as reflected in their respective headings— but because the headlines themselves succinctly provide us a framework going forward in the progressive discussion our current series.

The first one immediately reveals the *time* elapsed from the start of the Protestant Reformation and to what has happened to it. The next asks *Why?* You should read the story details by going to their respective websites.

To the second headline asking the question: “Why is the Pope Celebrating the Protestant Reformation?” we inquire further: (1) Why, at this time of earth’s history and Biblical prophecy, would the Church of Rome, through its head, the pope, *celebrate* the movement that singularly caused it to lose its absolute religious-political control over the monarchies and kingdoms of the Old World and its deadly suppression of religious liberty, freedom of conscience, and access to the Bible—an unprecedented power it wielded for over a thousand years of the Dark Ages? (2) If the Protestant Reformation is over, are the foundation and fundamental issues for which they were born ceased to exist? Has the original intent of the movement been realized within the last 500 years so that it is no longer necessary? If not, is there still an active remnant of the Protestant Reformation existing today to continue its original objectives and mission till they are realized? Who are they? Is there any difference between the original and the remnant of the movement? How?

As evil as the French Revolution was, it was what brought the prophesied end of the Dark Ages over quarter of century before 1798—the prophetic, and now history-altering date when “*one of the heads of the beast was mortally wounded* (Rev. 13: 3) when Gen. Berthier of Napoleon’s Republican army forcibly removed

Pope Pius VI from his throne and took him captive to France where he died the next year in Valence. And the world and the churches thought that the papacy was dead---failing to study the specific prophecy for themselves that says and

The Dark Ages. – Following the principle of a day-for-a-year in prophetic time, this darkest period of the church and the world is referred to in the two interconnected major prophetic books of Daniel and Revelation as either 42 months or 3 1/2 years or a day, days, and a day and a half, time, times and half a time---all totaling to 1,260 literal years. Jesus warned His early disciples of in Matthew 24: 20: 22: that says:

“And pray that your flight may not be in *winter* or on the *Sabbath*. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would saved [alive]; but for the elect’ sake those days will be shortened.”

So why is the Pope celebrating the Protestant Reformation? Because the *Protestant* Reformation movement is dead five hundred years after its birth!

History: Rome undermines early Protestant foundations began with outlawing the Bible and the forerunners of Protestantism—the Waldenses—the true Successors of the Apostolic Church

Christian Anderson, in *Facts of Faith*, says:

“Rome Versus the Bible. After the Church had fallen from its apostolic purity of life and doctrine, it found that, where the Bible was read by the common people, they lost faith in the Church and opposed her worship as a species of idolatry. *This was particularly true of the Waldenses, who had retained the Bible in their native language hundreds of years before the Reformation, and had copied and spread its pages over Catholic Christendom, wherever their missionaries traveled.* It was natural therefore, therefore, that the Roman Church, instead of supplying the common people with their Scriptures in their common language, should oppose this. *Cardinal Merry del Val says that on account of the activity of the Waldenses, and later of the Protestants, in spreading the Scriptures in the native language of the people, ‘the Pontiffs and the Councils were obliged on more than one occasion to control and sometime even forbid the use of the Bible in the vernacular.’*”

“He [Cardinal Merry del Val] also says: “Those who would put the Scriptures indiscriminately into the hands of the people are the believers of always of private interpretation---a fallacy both absurd in itself and pregnant with disastrous consequences. These counterfeit champions of the inspired book hold the Bible to be the sole source of Divine Revelation and cover with abuse and trite sarcasm the Catholic and Roman Church.” – ‘*Index of Prohibited Books, revised and published by order of His Holiness Pope Pius XI, ‘Foreword’ by Cardinal Merry del Val, pp. x, xi. Vatican Polyglot Press, 1930. Cited in Facts of Faith, Revised, pp. 10, 11, Southern Publishing Association, Nashville 8, TN: 1943.*”

“The plain words from such an authentic source need no comment. Ever since the first “*Index of Prohibited Books’ was issued by Pope Paul IV, in 1599, the*

Bible has had a prominent place in these lists of forbidden books. And, before the invention of printing, it was comparatively easy for the Roman Church to control what the people should, or should not, read; *but shortly before the Reformation started*, the Lord prepared the way for its rapid progress by the discovery of the art of printing. The name of **Laurence Coster**, of Holland, is often mentioned in connection with the story of the first production in Europe, in 1423; of moveable type. In 1450 to 1455 **John Gutenberg** printed the Latin Bible at Mentz (Mainz), Germany. He endeavored for a time to keep his invention a secret, but Samuel Smiles relates:

‘In the meanwhile, the printing establishments of Gutenberg and Schoeffer were for a time broken up by the sack and plunder of Mentz by the Archbishop Adolphus in 1462, when, their workmen becoming dispersed, and being no longer bound to secrecy, they shortly after carried with them the invention of the new art into nearly every country in Europe.’ – *The Huguenots*, p. 7. London: John Murray, 1868.

“There being so few books to print, and there being a ready sale for Bibles, *the printers risked all hazards from the opposition of the [Roman] Church, and printed Bibles in Latin, Italian, Bohemian, Dutch, French, Spanish, and German.* While these were so expensive that only the wealthy could afford to buy them, and their language was not adapted to the minds of the common people, yet ‘they seriously alarmed the Church; and in 1486 the Archbishop of **Mentz** placed the printers of that city, which had been **the cradle of the printing press**, under strict censorship. **Twenty-five years later, Pope Alexander VI** issued a bull prohibiting the printers of Cologne, Mentz, Treves, and Magdeburg, from publishing any books without the express license of their archbishops. Although these measures were directed against the printing of religious works generally, they were more particularly directed against the publication of the Scriptures in the vulgar tongue.’ – *Ibid*, p. 8/ Facts of Faith, p. 12.

The Reformation and the Bible

“The time had now come for the light to shine, and God’s word could no longer be kept from the people. Prophecy states that in spite of captivity, fire, and sword, ‘they shall be holpen with a *little help*.’ Daniel. 11: 33, 34.” – *Ibid*, p. 13, 14. . . .

“After Martin Luther had spent much time in the homes and the company of the people that he might acquire their language, he, with his co-workers, translated the Bible into a language that, while it was *dignified and beautiful* [for me, the King James or Authorized Version uses language most dignified of all versions], *was so natural and easy to be understood by the ordinary mind that it made the Bible at once ‘the people’s book.’*”

NOTE: Sadly, when the Bible was finally “unshackled from the papal church’s chains, and one’s properties and life were no longer imperiled for owning, reading, and sharing it, the Bible, eagerly sought at the outset, gradually and progressively ceased to be desired as “the people’s book.” Even by worldly standards, ready availability and abundance decreases the value of things while rarity increases it. This should not be the case where eternal truth and realities and God’s Word are concerned. Few, compared to the teeming millions of souls this late into earth’s history and so near the close of human probation, see and appreciate the inestimable value of God’s Word and religious liberty as the most precious of liberties until they finally and permanently taken away, as they certainly, will not long from now according to prophecy “that faileth not.”

“The New Testament was translated in 1521, and fifty-eight editions of were printed between 1522 and 1533;seventeen editions at Wittenberg, thirteen at Augsburg, twelve at

Basel, one at Erfurt, one at Grimma, one at Leipzig, and thirteen at Strasburg. The Old Testament was first printed in four parts, 1523 to 1533, and finally the entire Bible was published in one volume in 1534.: - *Ibid*, p. 14.

“In 1522, Jacques Lefevre translated the New Testament into French, and Collin, at Meaux, printed it in 1524. In 1525, William Tyndale translated the New Testament into English. All these New Testaments were translated from the original Greek, and not from the imperfect Latin Vulgate, used by the papal church.

“Printing presses were kept busy printing the Scriptures, while colporteurs and booksellers sold then to the eager public. The effect was tremendous. ‘Every honest intellect was at once struck with the strange discrepancy between the Sacred Volume and that of the Church of Rome.’ – *Historical Studies*, Eugene Lawrence, p. 255. *New York: Harper Brothers., 1876/ Ibid, p. 14.*

NOTE: The official Catholic Bible is the Douay-Rhimes Bible. Wikipedia says: “The Douay-Rheims Bible is a translation of the Bible from the Latin Vulgate into English made by members of the English College, Douai, in the service of the Catholic Church . . .

“*The purpose of the version, both the text and the notes, was to uphold Catholic tradition in the face of the Protestant Reformation [not to spread the Word of God!] which up till then had overwhelmingly dominated the Elizabethan religion and debate. As such it was an impressive effort by English Catholics to support the Counter-Reformation.*” – Wikipedia, art. “Douay-Rheims Bible.”

Also, the introduction towards the latter part of the Protestant Reformation of Preterism and Futurism, the latter the foundation of mainstream Christianity’s exegesis of end-time prophecy, often referred to as the Rapture doctrine, were the brainchild of Spanish Jesuit priests, Alcasar and Ribera, respectively. It proved to be a most damaging Counter-Reformation effort of the papal church for it largely succeeded in deflecting the bright lights of prophecy clearly pointing to the papacy as the Antichrist of prophecy, “the man of sin” and “the son of perdition who opposes and exalts above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God,” revealed by Apostle Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2: 3-4, and the Church of Rome as the spiritual “whore,” “Mystery, Babylon, the Mother of Harlots and the Abominations of the Earth, the woman drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus [not the Church!].” Revelation 17: 1-6. And the Protestant churches embraced Futurism!

The media reporting this event strangely do not mention this reason why the Roman Catholic Church declared the Waldenses and Albigenses as “heretics” and ordered them killed and burned at the stake. Nor does Pope Francis. This is double standards, at the very least. God has only one standard and law whereby He weighs and judges moral character and deeds—the untampered, unchanged Decalogue. Is the media playing blind, simply too lazy to check the facts, unfairly partial, deceived like the vast majority of Christians, or are they in collusion with the papacy? The Catholic Church requires confession of specific sins in their confessionals from the penitent sinners before they receive absolution or forgiveness from their priest-confessors (which the Bible adjudges as abomination). Yet when the pope publicly “asks forgiveness” for Roman Church’s persecutions and inhuman treatment” of the Waldensians” (what about the Albigenses, the Vaudois, the printers, the Protestants, etc., through the centuries,

he does specify the sins they committed against these people of God for which he is asking forgiveness for. Note news quote following:

“Pope Francis Asks Forgiveness for the Catholic Persecution of Waldenses.” By Jeremiah Jacques, June 23, 2015. The Trumpet.com.

“Pope Francis visited Turin, Italy, on Monday where he asked forgiveness for the persecution of the Catholic Church brought upon the Waldensians during the Middle Ages. ‘On the part of the Catholic Church, I ask you forgiveness. . . . I ask it for the *non-Christian and even inhuman attitudes and behavior that we showed you.*”

“The Waldensian Church was founded in the 12th century by Peter Waldo, a wealthy merchant from Lyons, France. [This is incorrect; it was not founded by Peter Waldo. See below]. The Waldenses recognized that they were the true successors of the apostolic Church. They obeyed the laws of both the Old and New Testaments, including weekly Saturday-Sabbath observance and the Bible-ordained holy days. [Indeed, this the truth and the reason why the papal church tried to exterminate them!]

“The Catholic Church condemned these practices because they contradicted the Vatican’s doctrines [clearly revealing that it is the Catholic Church, in fact, that is antichristian in its attitude towards all who faithfully follow Jesus Christ, uphold the Bible and its teachings, not the traditions and commandments of man and the church.]

“In 1184 Pope Lucius labeled the Waldensians as heretics. Within a few years, the persecutions intensified, with a command issued that all Waldenses in certain areas be burned at the stake. [This is not merely “an inhuman *attitude*”!] Many Waldensians fled to the area near Turin. [Those grounds are the real sacred grounds! It was fertilized with the blood and ashes of these real saints and martyrs for Jesus! Indeed as a godly reformer declared, “the blood of martyrs was the seed of the gospel.”]

“In 1208, Pope *Innocent* [what a papal name!] declared the Albigensian Crusade—an attack not only against the Waldensians, but also against the *civil rulers* who protected them. Many Waldensians were killed and displaced.” –
<https://www.thertrumpet.com/article/1234.19.0.0/religion/roman-catholicims-/pope-asks-forgiveness-for-catholic-persecution-of-waldensians>.

Peter Waldo was clearly not the “founder of the Waldensian religion” but Christ Himself as this news story clearly says: they were the “true successors of the apostolic Church”—certainly not the Roman Church who claims “unbroken apostolic succession from Peter, whom they say was the first pope—a claim that is so completely biblically unsound. The Waldenses kept and thus preserved the weekly Saturday-Sabbath, the Creator’s appointed memorial of creation and He himself reiterated in the New Testament as recorded in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke that “Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath,” and that “the Son of man is the Lord of the Sabbath!” Sabbath-keeping is the sign of Lordship—who people worship as Lord—whether Jesus or the Satan, the real Antichrist. This is the real and main reason they were hated, proscribed, and declared “heretics” worthy of being “burned at the stake” as ordered by the pope—who call themselves “the vicegerent of Jesus” and “verily God on earth”!

This was and is to be expected by all who follow Jesus. He warned His early disciples and all who follow His footsteps down through time: “If they persecuted

Me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept My saying, they will keep yours also.” John 15: 20, KJV.

Of this Ellen G. White wrote:

“Persecution in its varied forms is the development of a principle which will exist as long as Satan exists and Christianity has vital [not legal or corrupt]. No man can serve God without enlisting against himself the hosts of darkness. Evil angels will assail him, alarmed that his influence is taking the prey from their hands. Evil men, rebuked by his example, will unite with them [evil angels] in seeking to separate him [he who serves God] from God by alluring temptations. When these do not succeed, then a compelling power is employed to force the conscience.”- *Maranatha* (devotional), p. 31

It was the Protestant Reformation initially sparked by Dr. Martin Luther’s nailing of his 95 thesis on the door of the church in Wittenberg, the day before The Festival of All Saints, one of the most important festivals created by the Church of Rome, that reached its glorious climax with the protest of the Christian princes of Germany that shortened this dark period. The historian says: “The noontide of the papacy was the world’s moral midnight” (E. G. White, *Story of Redemption*, 334). Read also the book *The Great Controversy*, and the following chapters: “Luther’s Separation from Rome,” ch. 7, pp. 120-144; “Luther Before the Diet, ch. 8, pp. 145-170; “Progress of Reform in Germany,” ch. 10, pp. 185-196; “Protest of the Princes,” ch. 11, pp. 197-210.

All Evangelical and Pentecostal Christians, Lutherans in particular, should find time to read the *Great Controversy* and the chapters mentioned herein. I firmly believe that anyone seeking to know and understand unpopular yet unvarnished truth for these last days, as revealed in Bible prophecy, will, after reading this book, see how misinformed and misled they have been all these years regarding the everlasting gospel, the true nature and main actors on earth of the great controversy between Christ and Satan since the fall of man till the close of time, the amazing plan of redemption, the real rapidly-approaching final world crisis, and the triumph of the truth and the true church as finally revealed at Christ’s glorious second coming. They will understand and appreciate the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14!

Now, on to Dr. Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation. I here seize the moment to urgently encourage the reader to obtain for yourself, “History of the Reformation of the Sixteenth Century by J.H. Merle D’Aubigne, D.D., Vol. I to V.

“Foremost among those who were called to lead the church from the darkness of popery into the light of purer truth, stood Martin Luther.

Zealous, ardent, and devoted, knowing no fear but the fear of God, and acknowledging no foundation for religious faith but the Holy Scriptures, Luther, was the man for his time; through him God accomplished a great work for the reformation of the church and the enlightenment of the world.”- *Great Controversy*, p. 120.

How it all began. - “While one day examining the books in the library of the university [of Erfurt], Luther discovered a Latin Bible. Such a book he had never before seen. He was ignorant even of its existence. He had heard portions of the Gospels and Epistles, which were read to the people at public worship [but never were instructed to study and

verify truth for themselves], and he supposed that these were the entire Bible. Now, for the first time, he looked upon the whole of God's word. With mingled awe and wonder he turned the sacred pages; with quickened pulse and throbbing heart he read for himself the words of life, pausing now and then to exclaim: 'O that God would give me such a book for myself!' – D' Aubigne, b. 2 ch. 2. Angels of heaven were by his side, and rays of light from the throne of God revealed the treasure of truth to his understanding. He had ever feared to offend God, but now the deep conviction of his condition as a sinner took hold upon him as never before." – *Ibid*, p. 122.

"Luther was ordained as a priest and was called from the cloister to a professorship in the University of Wittenberg. Here he applied himself to the study of the Scriptures in the original tongues. He began to lecture upon the Bible; and the book of Psalms, the Gospels, and the Epistles were opened to the understanding of crowds of delighted listeners. . . .

"Luther was still a true son of the papal church and had no thought that he would ever be anything else. In the providence of God he was led to visit Rome [from Germany]. He pursued his journey on foot, lodging at the monasteries on the way. At a convent in Italy he was filled with wonder at the wealth, magnificence, and luxury that he witnessed. Endowed with a princely revenue, the monks dwelt in splendid apartments, attired themselves in the richest and most costly robes, and feasted on a sumptuous table. With painful misgivings Luther contrasted this scene with the self-denial and hardship of his own life. His mind was becoming perplexed."

NOTE: The Church of Rome is the richest church in the world. See *The Vatican Billions* by Avro Manhattan: Free Download at [archive.org/details/The Vatican Billions](http://archive.org/details/The_Vatican_Billions). Moreover, see Wikipedia's list of Manhattan's list of books (20), especially regarding the Vatican.

"At last Luther beheld in the distance *the seven-hilled city*. With deep emotion he prostrated himself upon the earth, exclaiming: 'Holy Rome I salute thee!' – D' Aubigne, b.2, ch. 6. He entered the city, visited the churches, listened to the marvelous tales repeated by priests and monks, and performed all the ceremonies required. Everywhere he looked upon scenes that filled him with astonishment and horror. He saw that iniquity existed among all classes of the clergy. He heard indecent jokes from the prelates, and was filled with horror with their awful profanity, even during mass [they were inebriated of course because the wine they drank during the ceremony was fermented, an abomination]. As he mingled with the monks and citizens he met dissipation, debauchery. Turned where he would, in the place of sanctity he found profanation. 'No one could imagine,' he wrote, 'what sins and infamous actions are committed in Rome; they must be seen and heard to be believed. Thus they are in the habit of saying, 'If there is a hell, Rome is built over it: it is an abyss whence issues every kind of sin.' – *Ibid*, b.2, ch. 6.

"By a recent decretal an **indulgence** had been promised by the pope to all who should ascend upon their knees 'Pilate's staircase,' said to have been descended by our Savior on leaving the *Roman* judgment hall and to have been miraculously conveyed from Jerusalem to Rome [really!] Luther was one day devoutly climbing these steps, when suddenly a voice like thunder seemed to say to him: 'The just shall live by faith.' Romans 1: 17. He sprang to his feet and hastened from the place of in shame and horror. The text never lost its power upon his soul. From that time he saw more clearly than ever before the fallacy of trusting to human works for salvation, and the necessity of constant faith in the merits of Christ. His eyes had been opened, and were never again to be closed, to the delusions of the papacy. [These are the "righteousness by works" that the

Bible condemns, not loving, intellectual and spiritual obedience to the untampered Decalogue!].”- *Ibid*, pp. 124, 125.

“After his return from Rome, Luther received at the University of Wittenberg the degree of doctor of divinity. Now he was at liberty to devote himself, as never before, to the Scriptures that he loved. He had taken a solemn vow to study carefully and to preach with fidelity the word of God, not the sayings of and doctrines of the popes, all the days of his life. He was no longer the mere monk or professor, but the authorized herald of the Bible. He had been called as a shepherd to feed the flock of God, that were hungering and thirsting for the truth. He firmly declared that Christians should receive no other doctrines than those which rest on the authority of the Sacred Scriptures. **These words struck at the very foundation of papal supremacy. They contained the vital principle of the Reformation.**”- *Ibid*, p. 126.

“Luther saw the danger of exalting human theories above the word of God. He fearlessly attacked the speculative infidelity of the schoolmen and opposed the philosophy and theology which so long held a controlling influence upon the people. He denounced such studies as not only worthless but pernicious, and sought to turn the minds of his hearers from the sophistries of philosophers and theologians [just like apostle Paul] to the eternal truths set forth by prophets and apostles.

“But light and darkness cannot harmonize. Between truth and error there is an irrepressible conflict. The uphold and defend the one is to attack and overthrow the other. Our Savior himself declared: ‘I came not to send peace, but a sword.’ Matt. 10: 34. Said Luther, a few years after the opening of the Reformation: ‘God does not *guide* me, He *pushes* me forward. He *carries* me away. I am not master of myself. I desire to live in repose; but I am thrown into the midst of tumults and revolutions.’ – D’Aubigne, b. 5, ch. 2.

“The Roman Church had made merchandise of the grace of God. The tables of the money-changers (Matt. 21: 12) were set up beside her altars, and the air resounded with the shouts of buyers and sellers. Under the plea of raising funds for the erection of St. Peter’s Church at Rome, indulgences for sin were publicly offered for sale by the authority of the pope. *By the price of crime a temple was to be built up for God’s worship—the cornerstone laid with the wages of iniquity!* But the very means adopted for Rome’s aggrandizement provoked the deadliest blow to her power and greatness. [How?] it was this that aroused the most determined and successful of the enemies of popery, and led to the battle that shook the papal throne and jostled the *triple crown upon the pontiff’s head.* - *Great Controversy*, pp. 126, 127.

NOTE: What was the origin of the triple crown placed upon the pope’s head in his investiture and what did it represent? According to the prophecy of Daniel 7: 8 regarding “the little horn.”

“Any one acquainted with history that the Papacy is the only power that answers all these specifications. It rose ‘among’ the kingdoms of Western Rome, ‘after they were established in A.D. 476, and it differed from a purely civil power. But the angel gives [Daniel] still another mark of identity of the ‘little horn.’ (4) Before it ‘there *three of the first horns plucked up by the roots.*’ (V. 8). Thus three kingdoms would be plucked up to give place for the Papacy. This prediction found its exact fulfillment in the destruction of the *three Arian kingdoms*; the *Heruli*, the *Vandals*, and the *Ostrogoths*, as we shall now see. Rev. E.B. Elliott, M.A., says: ‘I might cite *three* that were eradicated from before the Pope out of the list *first* given; viz., the Heruli Under Odoacer, the Vandals and the Ostrogoths.’ – ‘*Horae Apocalypticæ*,’ Vol. III, p. 168, Note 1. London: 1862; cited in *Facts of Faith*, Revised edition, by Christian Edwardson, p. 36, Southern Publishing Asso., Nashville TN. U.S.A: 1943.

“In former days crowns of conquered kings were placed on the head of the conqueror. (2 Sam. 12: 30). It is symbolically fitting, therefore, that the pope wears a triple crown. Bishop Thomas Newton, speaking of the power that destroyed the three horns, says: ‘And the pope hath in a

manner pointed himself out for the person by wearing *the triple crown.* – *Dissertations on the Prophecies,* p. 220. London. – *Ibid,* p. 36.

Who was Tetzel? Johann Tetzel (1465-Aug. 11, 1519) was a Roman Catholic German Dominican friar and preacher. In addition, he was, by Pope Leo X's appointment, *Grand Inquisitor of Heresy* in Poland in 1509 and later made the *Grand Commissioner for Indulgence* in Germany. (See Wikipedia , art. "Tetzel").

O what a devastating combination of abomination residing in one man of being both an Inquisitor General and Indulgence Monger!

"The official appointed to conduct the sale of indulgences in Germany—Tetzel by name—*had been convicted of the basest offenses against society and against the law of God* [immorality, etc]; but having escaped the punishment due for his crimes [by the Church, not by God for there is no record of him repenting and confessing these abominations and crimes to God *of heaven* and pleading for His forgiveness, instead], he was employed to further the mercenary and unscrupulous projects of the pope [Leo X]. With great effrontery he repeated the most glaring falsehoods and related marvelous tales to deceive the *ignorant, credulous, and superstitious* people. Had they possessed the word of God they would have been thus deceived. It was to keep them under the control of the Papacy, in order to swell the power and wealth of her ambitious leaders, that the Bible had been withheld from them. (See John C.L. Gieseler, *A Compendium of Ecclesiastical History*, per. 4, sec. 1, par. 5.)" – *Ibid*, p. 127.

"As Tetzel entered a town, a messenger went before him, announcing: 'The grace of God and of the holy father [the pope, not God the Father in heaven] is at your gates.' – D'Aubigne, b. 3, ch. 1. And the people welcome the blasphemous pretender as if he were God Himself come down from heaven to them. The infamous traffic was set up in the [Roman] church, and Tezel, ascending the pulpit, extolled the indulgences as the most precious gift of God [not Jesus Christ, which Paul says is "the unspeakable gift of the Father," 2 Cor. 9: 15, KJV]. He declared that by virtue of his certificates of pardon all the sins which the purchaser should afterward desire to commit [premeditated sins!] would be forgiven him, and that '*not even repentance is necessary.*' – D' Aubigne, b. 3 ch. 1. More than this, he assured his hearers that the indulgences had power to save not only the living but the dead; that the very moment the money should clink against the bottom of the chest, the *soul* in whose behalf it had been paid would escape from purgatory and make its way to heaven. (See K. R. Hagenbach, *History of the Reformation*, vol. 1, p. 96.)" – *Ibid*, pp. 126, 127.

What Peter declared of Simony. – "When Simon Magus offered to purchase of the apostles the power to work miracles, **Peter** answered him: 'Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.' Acts 8:20. But Tetzel's offer was grasped by eager thousands. Gold and silver flowed into the treasury [of the Papacy!]. A salvation that could be bought with money was more easily obtained than that which requires repentance, faith, and diligent effort to resist and overcome sin. (See Appendix note for page 59).

"The doctrine of Indulgences has been opposed by men of learning and piety in the Roman Church, and there were many who had no faith in pretensions so contrary to both reason and revelation. [But] no prelate dared to lift his voice against this iniquitous traffic [up until the time Martin Luther stood up]; but the minds of men were becoming disturbed and uneasy, and many eagerly inquired if God would not work through some instrumentality for the purification of His church.

"Luther, though still a papist of the straitest sort, was filled with horror at the blasphemous assumptions of the indulgence mongers. Many of his own congregation had purchased certificates of pardon, and they soon began to come to their pastor,

confessing their various sins, not because they were penitent and wished to reform, but on the ground of indulgence. Luther refused them absolution, and warned them that unless they should repent and reform their lives, they must perish in their sins. In great perplexity they repaired to Tetzel with the complaint that their confessor had refused his certificates; and some boldly demanded that their money be returned to them. The friar [Tetzel] was filled with rage. *He uttered the most terrible curses, cause fires to be lighted in the public squares, and declared that 'he had received an order from the pope **to burn all heretics** who presumed to oppose his most holy indulgences.'* – D'Aubigne, b. 3. Ch. 4."-*Ibid*, pp. 128, 129.

"Luther now entered boldly upon his work as a champion of the truth. His voice was heard from the pulpit in earnest, solemn warning. He set before the people the offensive character of sin, and taught them that it is impossible for man, by his own works, to lessen its guilt or evade its punishment. Nothing but repentance towards God and faith in Christ can save the sinner. The grace of Christ cannot be purchased; it is a free gift. *He counseled the people not to buy indulgences*, but to look in faith to a crucified Redeemer. He related his own painful experience in vainly seeking by humiliation and penance to secure salvation, and assured his hearers that it was by looking away from himself and believing in Christ that he found peace and joy."- *Ibid*, p. 129.

"As Tetzel continued his traffic [as in trafficking illicit spiritual drugs] and his impious pretensions, Luther determined upon a more effectual protest against these crying abuses. An occasion soon offered. The castle church at Wittenberg possessed many **relics** [relic worship is another abominable form of idolatry invented by the Roman Church], which on certain *holy days* [i.e., as declared by the Roman Church. God Creator has declared only one day holy—the seventh day Sabbath, the memorial of His creation and creative power] were exhibited to the people, and full remission of sins was granted to all who then visited the church and made confession. Accordingly on these days the people in great numbers resorted thither. One of the most important of these occasions, the Festival of All Saints, was approaching. On the preceding day, Luther joined their way to the church, posted on its door a paper containing ***ninety-five propositions against the doctrine of indulgences***. He declared his willingness to defend these theses next day at the university, against all who should see fit to attack them." –*Ibid*, pp. 129, 130.

What Luther's 95 Theses actually revealed that angered the Papacy

First, Jesus Himself declared: "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." John 3: 19-21, NKJV.

"Luther's propositions attracted *universal* attention. They were read and reread, and repeated in every direction. Great excitement was created in the university and in the whole city. ***By these theses it was shown that the power to grant the pardon of sin, and to remit its penalty, had never been committed to the pope or to any other man. The whole scheme was a farce,--an artifice to extort money by playing upon the superstitions of the people,--- a device of Satan to destroy souls of all who should trust to its lying pretensions.*** It was also clearly shown that the gospel of Christ is the most valuable treasure of the church, and that the grace of God, therein revealed, is freely bestowed upon all who seek it by repentance and faith."- *Ibid*, pp. 129, 130.

(To be continued next month)